(c) The Project, estimated to cost Rs 475.8 crores, would have an installed capacity of 500 MW and is targetted for commissioning during 1990-91.

Reserves of coal in Synclinel Axis

529. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exercise has been carried to find out the possible and probable reserves of 16000 million tonnes of coal in the Synclinel axis from Broach to Mehsana and lignite in Kutch and Broach;

(b) whether it is a fact that further projection of concealed coal in Gujarat upto Kutch was proved when ONGC struck coal beds in oil-well drilling in 1960;

(c) whether in the past and also recently Government have been approached with suggestions or proposals to work out mining of coal and lignite in the above mentioned areas; and

(d) what is the response of Government thereto and details of the information available to Govt. regarding coal and lignite deposits in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d) Oil and Natural Gas Commission while drilling for oil in Gujarat discovered coal reserves to the tune of 83 billion tonnes in Mehsana-Kalol area at depths varying from 700 to 1700 metres. These deep coal seams are not capable of being mined by conventional mining methods. ONGC have prepared a pilot project as an R&D effort in the field of insitu coal gasification.

As per assessment made by the Geological Survey of India based on regional exploration upto June, 1985, lignite reserves in Gujarat are 152 million tonnes. State Government of Gujarat is engaged in extraction of lignite in Broach and Kutch areas.

Cooking gas connections in Gujarat and in the country

530. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cooking gas connections so far given in Gujarat and other States separately;

(b) what is the projected demand for new gas connections in Gujarat and in the country during this year and in the next year;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that the refurbishing of supply of gas, frequently results in malpractices and corruption; and

(d) how many cases of mal-practices were detected in the last year culminating in the punishment of the person involved and what are the details of the measures taken to prevent this malpractice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) A statement is attached. (*See* below)

(b) As on 1-1-86, the number of persons on the waiting list throughout the country and in the State of Gujarat was 37,05,968 and 5,46,726 respectively.

(c) Complaints of malpractices in the event of delays in supply of LPG refills are received in the normal course of business by the oil marketing companies.

(d) During the year 1985-86, 382 cases of malpractices were detected. Action taken against the erring distributors ranged from issue of caution/warning letters to termination of distributorships.

Statement

Name of the State/ U.T.s	Total number of LPG connections (as on 1-1-1986)
1. Andhra Pradesh	8,71,786
2. Assam	1,71,220
3. Bihar	2,93,429
4. Gujarat	10,07,294
5. Haryana	2,16,070
6. Himachal Pradesh	43,476
7. Jammu and Kashmir	62,928
8. Karnataka	5,41,100
9. Madhya Pradesh	5,90,517
10. Kerala	2,79,292
11. Maharashtra	21,09,289
12. Manipur	7,300
13. Meghalaya	5,200
14. Nagaland	5,250
15. Orissa	1,04,921
16. Punjab	3,28,030
17. Rajasthan	2,85,669
18. Sikkim	3,178
19. Tamil Nadu	9,74,631
20. Tripura	5,250
21. Uttar Pradesh	9,57,650
22. West Bengal	5,49,413
Union Territories	
23. Arunachal Pradesh	1,569
24. Chandigarh	76,499
25. Delhi	7,51,763
26. Mizoram	3,665
27. Pondicherry	20,044
28. Goa	69,373
29. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3,060

Micro-Hydel Project of Simen river in East Siang District

531. SHRIMATI OMEM MOYONG DEORI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress of Micro-hydel Project of Simen river in East Siang District (Arunachal Pradesh) is tardy;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to handover the project to N.E.E.P. C.O.;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Micro hydel project on Simen river in East Siang District is still at the investigation stage.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Delay in awarding the HBJ pipeline

532. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the delay in arriving at a decision on the award of contract of HBJ project, there will be delay in the implementation of the project also; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether there will be cost escalation in the execution of the project; whether Indianisation has suffered due to the award of the contract to France and Japanese consortium and whether the work schedule on the project will suffer; whether the pace of project implementation will not be main-